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Mr. Wm. Lutley had a somewhat similar experience. The eagle rose from the carcass it was feeding upon, flapping laboriously to get under way. Mr. Lutley galloped his horse up close to it and shot at it with his six-shooter, a .45 Colt, when it plunged to the ground and turned on its back to defend itself. He captured it with difficulty, and tied it on behind his saddle. Glancing around later, as he rode toward home, he found the skirt of the saddle was swarming with lice. He immediately dispatched the bird and threw it onto the ground. He cut off the wings, head and feet, and also examined the body to see where he had hit it when he shot. To his surprise he could find no sign of a wound. He believes it was frightened by being overtaken by his horse and the noise of his shot, and purposely dropped to the ground to get into its customary position of defence. On this occasion, also, there was no wind to assist the bird in taking flight.

Recently two cowboys in the employ of Mr. Lutley came upon three eagles feeding upon the body of a calf about seven months old. The birds were very sluggish and allowed the cowboys to approach close enough to kill one with a six-shooter. The other two flew away and at last report had not been seen again in that vicinity which was twelve miles or more from the nearest available nesting site. This carcass, too, had begun to decay. Traps were set, but were not sprung at any time. Coyotes had made tracks all around, but the sight and smell of the traps kept these wary animals away. The back of this calf gave every evidence that it had been killed by the eagles. Evidently Golden Eagles do some damage to live stock. Also the above incidents show that the Golden Eagle will, on occasion, eat carrion.

It isn't out of the way to mention here that a Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was seen on numerous occasions perched upon or flying among the topmost pinnacles of the Chiricahua Mountains during the open season for deer last fall. It was very shy and would not permit any close approach. It was supposed to have fed upon wounded deer, or offal from such as were killed by hunters.

Tombstone, Arizona, April 5, 1916.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Black-headed Grosbeaks Eating Butter.—At Idyllwild, in the San Jacinto Mountains, August 2, 1907, I was told by Mrs. Atwood of Riverside that the Grosbeaks came to her tent for butter, hunting for it so persistently that she put it in a covered hanging box, after which they flew against the box again and again. She said that the birds also ate bacon drippings when these were to be had.—FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY, *Washington, D. C.*

A Nestfull.—On April 17, 1916, I found a nest of the Spurred Towhee (*Pipilo m. megalonyx*) in a dense blackberry thicket in the Los Angeles River bottom. It was placed in a depression in the ground at the base of the berry bush, made of leaves and grass as is usual, and measured about 2½ inches across on the inside. The contents were nine fresh eggs, quite a nest full, so full in fact that some of the eggs protruded above the edge of the sheltering structure, so that the mother towhee could sit on the nest but not in it. Four of the eggs were laid by the towhee, and five of them, rather the larger half, by a Valley Quail (*Lophortyx c. vallicola*)! When discovered, the towhee was assiduously trying to hatch out this large and unevenly divided family. I have not found such an occurrence cited in any books of bird lore. When I discovered the

towhee's nest I was at first under the impression that a cowbird had been up to her usual pranks.—EMERSON ATKINS, *Los Angeles, California*.

Sierra Junco in Golden Gate Park.—On June 5, 1915, I saw a pair of juncos in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and am quite sure they were *Junco oreganus thurberi*. The occurrence of this species in the bay region in summer seems to me worthy of note.—W. A. SQUIRES, *San Francisco, California*.

Pomarine Jaeger in San Francisco Bay.—On May 15, 1916, at about 4:30 P. M., while crossing the Bay from San Francisco to Sausalito, my attention was drawn to a bird whose actions closely resembled those of *Stercorarius pomarinus* but, unfortunately, the individual was too far distant to warrant a record. The return trip of the following morning proved more successful, however, four birds of this species being seen at such close range as to make identification positive. One passed very close to the ferry boat about west of, and near to, Alcatraz Island; the other three were noted just after passing the island. At the time of these occurrences (about 8:30 A. M.) a heavy west wind and a strong flood tide, both of unusual intensity, were in evidence, the consequent tide-rips in the neighborhood of Alcatraz being extreme.

In Grinnell's *Distributional List of the Birds of California* this species is referred to as follows: "Common fall migrant coastwise. Recorded from San Francisco . . . San Francisco Bay . . . and from off Monterey." Thus it would appear that this is the first authentic spring record for the Bay waters.

For many years I have regularly travelled between San Francisco and Sausalito during the spring, but in spite of constant vigilance my records of this species have heretofore been confined to the months of September and October, when their appearance in small and varying numbers can be safely depended upon, though not necessarily daily.—JOHN W. MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.

Hummingbird Mistakes Scarlet Yarn for a Flower.—On a recent trip to a favorite canyon in quest of hummingbirds, I discovered that someone had been picnicing there and had tied bits of scarlet yarn as danger signals on the poison oak bushes in the vicinity. I noted a female hummingbird, apparently the Black-chinned, repeatedly trying to extract honey from these bits of yarn. This was new to me, and at first I thought she might be hunting for building material. On close observation, however, I concluded that the bright color fooled the bird, and that she expected to find some new kind of nectar.—W. LEE CHAMBERS, *Eagle Rock, California*.

The Vernacular Name of *Passer domesticus* in North America.—In the March-April, 1916, issue of THE CONDOR Mr. H. H. Mitchell questions the advisability of using the name English Sparrow for *Passer domesticus*, the House Sparrow of Europe. The statements of Mr. W. B. Barrows have a bearing on this point. In 1889 Mr. Barrows wrote "The name 'English Sparrow' is a misnomer, as the species is not confined to England, but is native to nearly the whole of Europe. The fact that most of the birds brought to America came from England explains the origin of the misleading name by which it is now so widely known that any attempt to change it would be futile" (The English Sparrow in North America, U. S. Dept. Agric., Div. Orn. and Mamm., Bull. 1, 1889, p. 17). On the same page Mr. Barrows states that the first birds were brought from England to Brooklyn in 1850, and on this and succeeding pages he gives records of the principal early importations and transfers of the species from one city to another. Inasmuch as the name English Sparrow was considered too well fixed to change as long ago as 1889, any attempt to correct the error now seems hopeless.—TRACY I. STORER, *Berkeley, California*.

Breeding of the Scott Oriole in Los Angeles County, California.—During the few days spent at Palmdale in the Antelope Valley between April 27 and May 4, 1916, the Scott Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) was found to be fairly common wherever tree yuccas grew abundantly. Possibly a few of the birds were late migrants, as many apparently unattached males were seen. Two nests were found, however, on one of which work had just started on April 30; the other contained four eggs in which incubation had just commenced on May 4.—ADRIAAN VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California*.

Notes from the Vicinity of Los Angeles.

Aphriza virgata. Surf-bird. May 1, 1915, I took a bird of this species close to the pier at Hyperion, where it was feeding with a flock of gulls. On my approach the gulls flew, while the Surf-bird practically ignored my presence.

Calamospiza melanocorys. Lark Bunting. One taken October 29, 1914, on Rancho La Brea, not far from the fossil beds. This furnishes an early fall record of a species that is far from common in this part of the state. It was in company with Gambel Sparrows and Linnets.

Stercorarius longicaudus. Long-tailed Jaeger. On January 26, 1916, I took an immature female of this species from the pier at Hyperion. This is apparently the second record for the California coast south of Monterey Bay, and the seventh for the state.

Oidemia americana. American Scoter. A female was taken November 24, 1915, on the sand under the pier at Hyperion. It was caught alive while napping, with head under wing, but was in good condition as to plumage and flesh. This is the most explicit record we have of the species for this part of the coast, but I suspect that if systematic work were done among the sea-ducks, this scoter would be found less rare than it is supposed to be.

Rissa tridactyla pollicaris. Pacific Kittiwake. A dead bird was found on the beach near Hyperion, on March 8, 1916. It had been torn to pieces by buzzards, but one wing and the skull were saved. On the same date I saw three birds that I am certain were Kittiwakes; they kept by themselves, usually over the surf close to the beach, but were too wild to be taken.

Puffinus tenuirostris. Slender-billed Shearwater. Remains of one bird were found on the beach near Hyperion, on December 15, 1915, and the skull saved. Buzzards had destroyed the skin. On December 5, 1915, a picnic party found a dead bird of this species on the beach some miles north of Santa Monica, and brought it, with apologies, to Dr. John Hornung. He has given me permission to record the occurrence here.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California*.

Variation of the Broken-wing Stunt by a Roadrunner.—We have all observed and admired the simulation of a broken wing by birds desiring to decoy us away from their nests or young. This instinct, for such it must be called, seems to crop out in a great many species, and it is always with interest that I observe the details of the performance on the part of a bird not hitherto found displaying it.

It was, therefore, highly interesting to me to be able to watch this performance as demonstrated by a Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*). I had found a nest of this species with the bird on, situated ten feet from the ground in the crotch of a sycamore tree in the Santa Ana River bottom near Colton, California, on May 10, 1916. As I was climbing near the nest the bird hopped to the ground. Immediately it began to squirm, scramble, and drag itself away across an open space and in full view. The bird was simulating a broken leg instead of the conventional broken wing! The bird held its wings closed throughout the demonstration though frequently falling over on its side in its enthusiasm. The whole performance was kept entirely in my view, the bird gradually working away from the tree until it was some 35 feet distant when it immediately ran back to the base of the tree and repeated the whole show. I had been so interested up to now that I had failed to examine the nest which when looked into contained five young probably a week old. When I got to the ground the bird continued its stunt rather more frantically than before and in order to encourage the bird I followed, and was pleased to see it remain highly consistent until I was decoyed to a point well outside the grove. Here the bird suddenly ran away at full speed and in a direction still away from the nest.

Now while this variation of the broken-wing stunt as performed by a running bird as compared with a flying species is perfectly logical, it had never before come to my notice. I have noted many times the decoying instincts as displayed by the Patagonian Rhea (*Rhea darwini*) in Patagonia, but this bird instead of simulating a broken leg simply pretends that it is in a weak and deplorable condition; wobbles and staggers with much art, and decoys dogs, foxes and eagles away with great success. Also the Rhea uses its wings ostensibly to keep its balance. So the details of the Roadrunner's subterfuge are entirely original.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Colton, California, August 12, 1916*.

The Coming of the Cowbird.—The bird-lovers of California will regret, I am sure, that that shirker among the feathered tribe, the Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*), is fast getting a foot-hold in the southern part of the State. Los Angeles County, where until a year ago these birds were rare, is now harboring many of them.

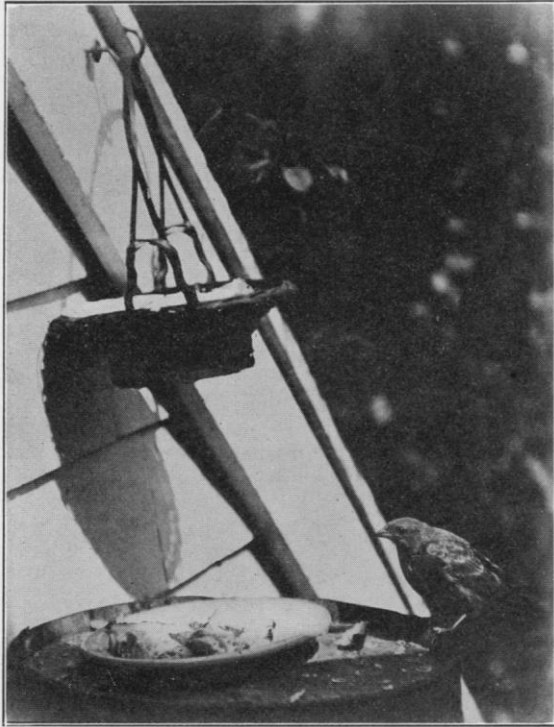


Fig. 52. YOUNG DWARF COWBIRD AT FEEDING STAND; PHOTOGRAPHED JULY 6, 1916, NEAR ARROYO SECO IN LOS ANGELES

The first time I saw one of these birds was on June 22, 1916, when I was giving a bird talk at a picnic in South Park, Los Angeles. As I told about our common birds, many of them hopped about, picking up crumbs near the table much to the delight of my listeners. Presently some one exclaimed: "Look at that small bird feeding that large one"; and, peeking beneath a bench, I was amazed to see a Song Sparrow feeding a young Cowbird twice her size. The two were about all the afternoon, the Cowbird going to the garbage can by himself and trying to feed.

On July 5, of the same year, I was called to a neighbor's to see a small bird that was feeding a young Oriole, for such my informant called it. Mistrusting that it was a Cowbird in my friend's garden, I hastened over to find my surmises were right and that, again, a Song Sparrow had been the victim. The little mother was bringing the big nestling to the baskets where bread was always out for the birds, and was stuffing it down him. I regret that by the time I was able to get a picture the Sparrow had weaned

her charge and I was only able to get a picture of the Cowbird on the feeding table, where it frequently came and seemed quite at ease, as indeed it should have been when the only mother it knew had brought it there (see fig. 52).—HARRIET WILLIAMS MYERS, Los Angeles, California, July, 1916.

Humboldt County Bird Notes.—A female Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*) was shot near the mouth of Eel River, Humboldt County, California, July 18, 1916, and sent to me for preservation. It was evidently a young bird of the previous year, a straggler in the northwest coast region, where no previous record of it seems to exist.

For several days during the last week in July of this year a flock of Western Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina montana*) were welcome visitors at our home in Carlotta. They were a surprise so near the coast, and were evidently attracted by the bountiful supply of berries on the cascara trees (*Rhamnus purshiana*). Eight young and old could be counted at one time, and the clear whistle of others could be heard among the fir trees. In four years residence we had not seen them here before.

The Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), which has been noted as a rather surprising winter visitor in Humboldt County, appeared in our garden August 6 this year. A handsome adult male at a distance of but a few feet appeared almost gross in size compared with the numerous and smaller *Selasphorus alleni*.

In the May CONDOR of the current year, the present writer mentions the Cassin Kingbird as a possible summer resident of Humboldt County. The recent finding of several pairs of Western Kingbirds nesting along the Van Duzen River indicates that the species occasionally found in this section is *verticalis* and not *vociferans*.—H. E. WILDER, *Carlotta, Humboldt County, California, August 6, 1916.*

A New Breeding Record for California.—May 14, 1916, at Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, was a beautiful, bright, calm day. The panoramic view of that crescent stretch of sand, bordered by the Pacific in one of its calmest moods, with Whaler Island blending into its own shadow but a mile away, made irresistible the desire to seek out some new wonder. A skiff riding at anchor near-by was soon bargained for, and that mile to Whaler Island shortened its distance like magic. A landing was made on the rough rocks at the eastern end, nearest the shore.

A hurried inspection of the surroundings disclosed numerous holes in the ground on the central part of the island and promising crags on the west slope, overlooking the sea. Among the boulders I crawled, peeking in under this one and feeling in under that one. Bending way over, eyes strained, trying to pierce the darkness of a deep crevice, a blue object could barely be seen sticking from under a large wedge-shaped boulder, that barely left room for the hand; it was not the dark tail and white rump of which I was so familiar. A new wonder was disclosed—a beautiful male Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) which subsequently became skin number 453, with well-incubated egg number 2-16/1—the basis of a new breeding record for the State of California. Not a lone pair of Fork-tailed, but a colony of approximately 100 pairs, was nesting on the west end. The honey-comb-like holes on the grassy flats were homes of the Kaeding Petrels, probably 300 pairs nesting there.

Lo and behold, seventy miles farther south, on Sugar Loaf Rock at Trinidad, a still farther southward breeding record for *furcata*. In company with Mr. W. Leon Dawson on June 18, 1916, I visited the rocks off the Humboldt coast. Mr. Dawson, lucky fellow, pulled, tail first, from a Tufted Puffin's burrow a Fork-tailed Petrel and, I might add, later a fresh egg of the same bird. I discovered a young Fork-tailed Petrel in the downy state the same day, and, several days after, Mr. Dawson took one adult and two young from the same island. The Fork-tailed were nesting in the sandy ground (unusual for this species) among about thirty pairs of the Kaeding Petrel.—C. I. CLAY, *Eureka, California, July 24, 1916.*

Occurrence of the Condor in Humboldt County.—There is no doubt but that the Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) once occurred in numbers in Humboldt County, California. There are now two mounted specimens in Eureka. One, in the collection of the Public Library, was mounted by Mr. Charles Fiebig, and was secured from a dead spruce tree on the Devoy place, on Kneeland prairie, eighteen miles from Eureka, altitude 2200 feet, in the fall of 1889 or 1890.

The other bird is in the collection of Dr. Ottemer in Eureka and was mounted by William Rotermund. This specimen was captured near the old Olmstead place on Yager Creek, altitude 1800 feet, about sixty miles east of Eureka, in the fall of 1892. Old settlers claim that the Condor was plentiful in early days in the Humboldt region. In my opinion it is now extinct here.—FRANKLIN J. SMITH, *Eureka, California, July 21, 1916.*

Lark Bunting at Cabezon, California.—In comparing Grinnell's latest list of the Birds of California with some of my old notes I find that no record occurs of the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) from the Salton Sea Desert. On May 7, 1883, I shot a male of this species at Cabezon, Riverside County, California. The bird was alone, extremely wild and only obtained after a long chase through the cactus. It was in breeding condition, the testes being enormously developed for a bird of this size and measured $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This fact seemed to point to the probability of the bird breeding in the vicinity, as the migrations were long since over.—R. B. HERRON, *San Bernardino, California.*